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Bethesda, MD 20816-3123

April 17, 2000  
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Commissioner Jane Henney  
FDA Dockets Management Branch  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061 (HFA-305)  
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket No. OOP-1211/CP1 and  
Docket No. 99N-4282

This letter is to support the petition filed on March 31, 2000 asking for revocation of the 1992 Food and Drug Administration policy on genetically engineered foods and for the replacement of current voluntary and informal consultation guidelines.

I ask for three changes in present FDA policy:


1. Given the rapid accumulation of scientific evidence showing that the preparation of a gene for transplantation, its accompaniment by promoters and regulators, and its induction into multiple sites generally result in a gene differing significantly from the gene in its natural environment, I ask that any genetically engineered food be subjected to the pre-market safety assessment procedures embodied in the food additive petition process.

I would ask further that this pre-market safety assessment be expanded to include testing for possible allergens and toxins.

2. Because of growing concerns about gene flow, accelerated development of resistance to antibiotics and pesticides, and other unforeseen effects of genetically engineered food plants on the natural world, I would ask for a required environmental impact analysis for each such plant.

3. In recognition of the long periods of time which can be required to find out all the effects of a new technology, and in order to allow citizens to exercise discretion about the level of caution they observe in including genetically engineered foods in their diet, I ask for mandatory labeling of all genetically engineered foods entering the market.

Respectfully,

  
Marcia Rucker

OOP-1211

C3

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